



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Agricultural Mediation Program

Fact Sheet
February 2020

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Mediation Program makes grants to state-designated entities that provide alternative dispute resolution through mediation to agricultural producers, their lenders and others directly affected by the actions of certain USDA agencies. In mediation, a trained, impartial mediator helps participants review and discuss their conflicts, identify options to resolve disputes and agree on solutions. Ideally, this process helps avoid expensive and time-consuming administrative appeals and/or litigation.

These grants are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Cases covered by the grants include agricultural loans, whether made by USDA or commercial lenders, and disputes involving USDA actions on farm and conservation programs, wetland determinations, rural water loan programs, grazing on national forest system lands, pesticides, rural housing and business loans, and crop insurance.

HOW MEDIATION WORKS

USDA program participants are offered the opportunity to request mediation prior to a formal administrative appeal. If this option is requested, some state programs provide assistance to prepare participants for the mediation session, which is held at a time and place convenient to all parties.

Unlike a judge or arbitrator, the mediator has no decision-making authority and is present only to help participants discuss and explore their issues in a useful, non-confrontational manner. Successful mediation is based on the cooperation and involvement of all participants.

Mediation can be accomplished in one meeting or may take several sessions depending on the complexity of the issues and the number of participants. If an agreement is not reached, the case is closed and all parties remain free to pursue other available administrative appeals and/or legal action.

MEDIATION BENEFITS

Successful mediation benefits participants in the following ways:

- Mediation may resolve disputes within a participant's financial means, providing a low-cost alternative to appeals or often expensive litigation and bankruptcy;
- The program may reduce stress caused by lengthy litigation. While it can take years for a case to filter through the courts, mediation generally takes only a few meetings to complete; and
- Mediation is confidential. Documents are not used for any other legal action against the participants.

COST TO PARTICIPANTS

Some state programs charge mediation participants a nominal fee for mediation services. This varies from state to state, and anyone considering mediation should inquire about fees when discussing the possibility of exercising this option.

STATE MEDIATION PROGRAM CONTACTS

The following is a list of contacts for states having state-certified mediation programs designated by the Governor or Designee. When mediation services are needed in a non-certified state, FSA contracts with a reputable mediator in the general public. If your state is not listed, please contact your local FSA office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries</p> <p>1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: mediation@agi.alabama.gov www.agi.alabama.gov</p>	<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic</p> <p>2100 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (208) 665-7958 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com or jhebner@fulcrumdispute.com www.fulcrumdispute.com</p>
<p>Arizona Agricultural Mediation Program Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc.</p> <p>572 N. Mondel Drive Gilbert, AZ 85233-4114 Phone: (480) 496-5926 Email: janet.wertsch@azagmediation.org or eric.thor@azagmediation.org www.azagmediation.org</p>	<p>Illinois Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc.</p> <p>P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, IL 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Email: iamp@ari-inc.org www.ilagmediation.org</p>
<p>Arkansas Agricultural Mediation Program Arkansas Department of Agriculture</p> <p>1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205 Phone: (501) 219-6361 Email: https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/</p>	<p>Indiana Agricultural Mediation Program Rural Services of Indiana, Inc.</p> <p>60918 U.S. 31 South South Bend, IN 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9460 Email: ramor@comcast.net www.ruralservicesonline.org</p>



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<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (California)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org www.calamp.org</p>	<p>Iowa Agricultural Mediation Program Iowa Mediation Service</p> <p>1441 29th Street, Suite 120 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Email: infor@iowamediationservice.com www.iowamediationservice.com</p>
<p>Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program Colorado Department of Agriculture</p> <p>2331 West 31st Avenue Denver, CO 80211 Phone: (303) 477-0076 Email: marka.gallegos@state.co.us</p>	<p>Kansas Agricultural Mediation Program Kansas State University</p> <p>113 Waters Hall Manhattan, KS 66506-4008 Phone: (785) 532-6958 Email: kams@ksu.edu www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams</p>
<p>Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program Center on Dispute Resolution Quinnipiac University School of Law</p> <p>275 Mt. Carmel Avenue Hamden, CT 06518 Phone: 1-800-870-2577 Email: CTAMP@Quinnipiac.edu CTAgMediation@Quinnipiac.edu</p>	<p>Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund</p> <p>2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344-3258 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: monicarainge@federation.coop www.federation.coop</p>



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<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program Roundtable Strategies</p> <p>516 S. Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (800) 616-7863 Fax: (800) 283-7531 Email: Inquire@agmediation.org www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine</p> <p>5717 Corbett Hall Orono, Maine 04469-5717 Phone: (207) 581-1484 Email: umgrants@maine.edu</p>
<p>Georgia Agriculture Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives /Land Assistance Fund</p> <p>2769 Church Street East Point, GA 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: monicarainge@federation.coop www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>Maryland Agricultural Mediation Program Maryland Department of Agriculture</p> <p>50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5770; (410) 841-5778 http://www.marylandacres.org</p>
<p>Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (Hawaii)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org http://hiamp.org/</p>	



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<p>Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program University of Massachusetts Boston Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration</p> <p>100 Morrissey Boulevard, M-1-627 Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 or (617) 287-4046 Email: mopc@umb.edu or Courtney.breese@umb.edu www.mopc.umb.edu</p>	<p>New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee</p> <p>P.O. Box 330 369 South Warren St. Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 Phone: (609) 984-2504 or (609) 984-6323 Email: david.kimmel@ag.state.nj.us http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>
<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program Roundtable Strategies</p> <p>516 South Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (800) 616-7863 Fax: (800) 283-7531 Email: Inquire@agmediation.org www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>New Mexico Agricultural Mediation Program Regents of New Mexico State University</p> <p>P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003 Phone: (575) 646-2925 or 1-800-289-6577 Fax: (575) 646-3808 Email: emw@nmsu.edu http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmamp/index.html</p>
<p>Minnesota Agricultural Mediation Program Regents of the University of Minnesota Sponsored Projects Administration</p> <p>450 McNamara Alumni Center 200 Oak Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070 Phone: (612) 624-5599 Email: awards@umn.edu https://research.um.edu/units/spa</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program New York State Unified Court System Office of ADR Programs</p> <p>2500 Pondview, Suite 104 Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 Phone: (518) 238-4354 Email: dkos@nycourts.gov www.nysamp.com/</p>
<p>Mississippi Agricultural Mediation Program Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund</p> <p>2769 Church Street East Point, GA 30344 3258 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: monicarange@federation.coop www.federation.coop</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University College of Business</p> <p>1 University Drive Cullowhee, NC 28723-9022 Phone: (336) 303-0466, (704) 724-9429, (828) 227-3567 Email: ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net www.ncmediation.org/</p>



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<p>Missouri Agricultural Mediation Program Missouri Department of Agriculture</p> <p>P.O. Box 630 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Email: mediate@mda.mo.gov</p>	<p>North Dakota Agricultural Mediation Program North Dakota Department of Agriculture</p> <p>600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-1496 Fax: (701) 328-1496 Email: ndms@nd.gov www.nd.gov/ndda www.nd.gov/ndda/program/mediation-services</p>
<p>Montana Agricultural Mediation Program Montana Department of Agriculture</p> <p>302 N. Roberts Helena, MT 59601-0204 Phone: (406) 444-5424 Email: Ag.mediation@mt.gov www.Agmediation.mt.gov</p>	<p>Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, Inc.</p> <p>2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4207 Phone: (405) 521-3934 Toll Free: 1-800-248-5465 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov www.ok.gov/mediation/</p>
<p>Nebraska Agricultural Mediation Program Nebraska Department of Agriculture</p> <p>P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: 1-800-446-4071 Email: Karla.Bahm@nebraska.gov www.negotiations.nebraska.gov</p>	<p>Oregon Agricultural Mediation Program Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center</p> <p>P.O. Box 1594 Hood River, OR 97031-1275 Phone: (541) 386-1283 Phone: 1-888-628-4101 Email: marti@6rivers.org http://www.6rivers.org/</p>
<p>New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (New Hampshire)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org http://nhamp.org/</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program Pennsylvania State University – University Park Office of Sponsored Programs</p> <p>110 Technology Center Building University Park, PA 16802-7000 Phone: (814) 863-6441 Email: gmg205@psu.edu https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/academics/research-centers/center-agricultural-and-shale-law</p>



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<p>Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island</p> <p>500 Broad St., Unit 4B Providence, RI 02907-1367 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: agmediationri@gmail.com or infor@cmcri.org http://www.cmcri.org/agriculturalmediation.html</p>	<p>Virginia Agricultural Mediation Program Farm Agricultural Resources & Mediation Western Carolina University</p> <p>1 University Way Cullowhee, NC 28723-9022 Phone: (336) 272-2722, (704) 724-9429, (828) 227-3567 Email: farmva@att.net</p>
<p>South Dakota Agricultural Mediation Program South Department of Agriculture Agricultural Services Division</p> <p>523 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501 Phone: (605) 773-5436 or (605) 280-4745 http://sdda.sd.gov</p>	<p>Washington Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic</p> <p>2100 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com or jhebner@fulcrumdispute.com www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>Texas Agricultural Mediation Program Texas Rural Mediation Services Office of Dispute Resolution</p> <p>P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock, TX 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 or 1-866-329-3522 Email: odr@co.lubbock.tx.us</p>	<p>Wisconsin Agricultural Mediation Program State of Wisconsin</p> <p>2811 Agriculture Drive Madison, WI 54718-6777 Phone: (608) 224-5138 http://datcp.wi.gov/</p>



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<p>Utah Agricultural Mediation Program Utah Department of Agriculture and Food</p> <p>P.O. Box 146500 350 North Redwood Road Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500 Phone: (801) 538-4976 Email: mure@utah.gov http://ag.utah.gov/legal-mediation.html</p>	<p>Wyoming Agricultural Mediation Program Agriculture, State of Wyoming</p> <p>2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone: (307) 777-8788 Email: lucy.pauley@wyo.gov http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program</p>
<p>Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (Vermont)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org www.vtamp.org</p>	